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**MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION SIGNS
EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN ARBITRATION PLEDGE**

ACICA President, Alex Baykitch, today signed the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge on behalf of the institution. The two key objectives of the Pledge, which was launched last month, are to improve the profile and representation of women in arbitration, and to appoint women as arbitrators on an equal opportunity basis. Those involved in drafting the Pledge have recognised the need to support an increase in diversity in all forms in the field of arbitration. Commentary to the Pledge notes that the intention is not to exclude other diversity initiatives but rather that the Pledge aspires to be “a first step in the direction of achieving more equal representation of all under-represented groups in our arbitration community”. ACICA has added its signature to those of other leading arbitral institutions, law firms, organisations and individuals around the world, to demonstrate its commitment to the aspirations and objectives of the Pledge and support efforts to improve diversity in all areas.

Deborah Tomkinson, ACICA Secretary General commented that “ACICA is committed to encouraging greater diversity and female participation in arbitration. Over the past five years, one quarter of the appointments made by ACICA has been of female arbitrators. The level of party appointments of female arbitrators has been significantly lower. We hope that signature of the Pledge will act to highlight this issue and increase the consideration and appointment of female candidates of equal qualification by parties and their counsel”.

ACICA will continue to encourage greater female representation in arbitration in Australia, increased transparency in the appointment process and in the level of female panel membership, and supports the initiatives of organisations such as ArbitralWomen that work to promote women in arbitration.

ACICA encourages its members and others involved in the arbitration community to sign up to the pledge at <http://www.arbitrationpledge.com/>.

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